

CLAIMS

1. A programmable television services client device for enabling a user to navigate to an individual television service, said client device coupled to a programmable television services server device, said client device comprising:

memory for storing data;

an interactive program guide contained in said memory for displaying program information received by said client device from said server device;

configuration information contained in said memory that includes a plurality of initial guide arrangements and a selection indication that denotes one of said plurality of initial guide arrangements as a selected guide arrangement; and

a processor configured to cause said client device to display said program information according to said selected guide arrangement, said processor responsive to said interactive program guide, said configuration information, and said first user input.

2. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein said selected guide arrangement is configured in a time format, including a centered and highlighted ("in-focus") lowest channel of a plurality of channels in a channel portion of said initial guide arrangement and a listing by time of future programs in a main program display portion of said initial guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels shown in said channel portion of said initial guide arrangement.

3. The programmable television services client device of claim 2, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current time format [including a highlighted ("in-focus") program on the current viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.]

4. The programmable television services client device of claim 2, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a user-configured time format [including a highlighted ("in-focus") program on a user pre-configured viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.]

5. The programmable television services client device of claim 2, wherein said processor is responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement with a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user overlayed on said channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

6. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein said selected guide arrangement is configured in a theme format displaying a first alphabetical theme in a theme portion of said initial guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said initial guide arrangement corresponding to said first alphabetical theme shown in said theme portion of said initial guide arrangement. Fig 20

7. The programmable television services client device of claim 6, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current theme format including a highlighted ("in-focus") current viewing program for a current time slot centered in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a theme category corresponding to said current viewing program in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement. Fig 21

8. The programmable television services client device of claim 6, wherein said processor is responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new theme not corresponding to said current viewing program in said theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new theme.

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12. The programmable television services client device of claim 11, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current title format including a highlighted ("in-focus") current viewing program for a current time slot centered in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a title category in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said current viewing program.

13. The programmable television services client device of claim 11, wherein said processor is responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new title category not corresponding to said current viewing program in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and an alphabetical listing by time of a plurality of programs in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new title category.

14. The programmable television services client device of claim 11, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a user-configured title format including a user pre-configured title highlighted in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and programs corresponding to said user pre-configured title in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

15. The programmable television services client device of claim 11, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement with a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user overlaid on said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

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16. The programmable television services client device of claim 1, wherein said selected guide arrangement is configured in a browse-by menu format including a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user.

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17. The programmable television services client device of claim 16, wherein a default menu format is a browse-by time format including a listing of future programs in a main program display of said initial guide arrangements.

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18. The programmable television services client device of claim 17, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current time format selectable from said browse-by menu, said current time format including a highlighted ("in-focus") current viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

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19. The programmable television services client device of claim 16, wherein a default menu format is a browse-by theme format including a listing of future programs in a main program display of said initial guide arrangements.

5 20. The programmable television services client device of claim 19, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current theme format selectable from said browse-by menu, said current theme format including a current viewing program for a current time slot highlighted ("in-focus") in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a theme category corresponding to said current viewing program in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

10 21. The programmable television services client device of claim 20, wherein said processor is responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new theme not corresponding to said current viewing program in said theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new theme.

15 22. The programmable television services client device of claim 16, wherein a default menu format is a browse-by title format including a listing of future programs in a main program display of said initial guide arrangements.

23. The programmable television services client device of claim 22, wherein said processor is further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current title format selectable from said browse-by menu, said current title format including a current viewing program for a current time slot and highlighted ("in-focus") centered in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a title category in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said current viewing program.

24. The programmable television services client device of claim 23, wherein said processor is responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new title category not corresponding to said current viewing program in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and an alphabetical listing by time of a plurality of programs in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new title category.

25. A method for implementing a programmable television services client device to enable a user to navigate to an individual television service, said client device coupled to a programmable television services server device, said client device comprising the steps of:

implementing a memory for storing data;
causing an interactive program guide contained in said memory to display program information received by said client device from said server device;

implementing configuration information contained in said memory that includes a plurality of initial guide arrangements and a selection indication that denotes one of said plurality of initial guide arrangements as a selected guide arrangement; and

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implementing a processor configured to cause said client device to display said program information according to said selected guide arrangement, said processor responsive to said interactive program guide, said configuration information, and said first user input.

26. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

causing said selected guide arrangement to be configured in a time format including a centered lowest channel of a plurality of channels in a channel portion of said initial guide arrangement and a listing by time of future programs in a main program display portion of said initial guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels shown in said channel portion of said initial guide arrangement.

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27. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current time format including a centered current viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent

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guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

28. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a user-configured time format including a highlighted ("in-focus") program on a user pre-configured viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

29. The method of claim 26, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement with a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user overlaid on said channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

30. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

causing said selected guide arrangement to configured in a theme format displaying a first alphabetical theme in a theme portion of said initial guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said initial guide arrangement corresponding to said first alphabetical theme shown in said theme portion of said initial guide arrangement.

31. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current theme format including a current viewing program for a current time slot centered in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a theme category corresponding to said current viewing program in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

32. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new theme not corresponding to said current viewing program in said theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new theme.

33. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a user-configured theme format including a user pre-configured theme highlighted in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and programs corresponding to said user pre-configured theme in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

34. The method of claim 30, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement with a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user overlayed on said theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

35. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

causing said selected guide arrangement to be configured in a title format displaying a first alphabetical category in a title portion of said initial guide arrangement and an alphabetical listing by time of a plurality of programs in a main program display portion of said initial guide arrangement corresponding to said first alphabetical category.

36. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current title format including a current viewing program for a current time slot centered in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a title category in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said current viewing program.

37. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new title category not corresponding to said current viewing program in said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and an alphabetical listing by time of a plurality of programs in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new title category.

38. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a user-configured title format including a user pre-configured title highlighted in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and programs corresponding to said user pre-configured title in said main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

39. The method of claim 35, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be further responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement with a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user overlayed on said title portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

40. The method of claim 25, further comprising the step of:

causing said selected guide arrangement to be configured in a browse-by menu format including a menu of ordering formats selectable by a user.

41. The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of:

causing said default menu format to be a browse-by time format including a listing of future programs in a main program display of said initial guide arrangements.

42. The method of claim 41, further comprising the step of:

causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current time format selectable from said browse-by menu, said current time format including a centered current viewing channel of a plurality of channels in said channel portion in said subsequent guide arrangement and a listing by time of current and future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide

arrangement corresponding to said plurality of channels in a channel portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

43. The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of:

5 causing said default menu format to be a browse-by theme format including a listing of future programs in a main program display of said initial guide arrangements.

44. The method of claim 43, further comprising the step of:

10 causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a subsequent guide arrangement in a current theme format selectable from said browse-by menu, said current theme format including a current viewing program for a current time slot centered in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a theme category corresponding to said current viewing program in a theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement.

45. The method of claim 44, further comprising the step of:

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20 causing said processor to be responsive to a subsequent user input to display a new theme not corresponding to said current viewing program in said theme portion of said subsequent guide arrangement and a plurality of future programs in a main program display portion of said subsequent guide arrangement corresponding to said new theme.

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